ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0072] Presented herein is a system and method for reducing the total size of the frame buffer portion of a decoding circuit. The reduction in size is possible because first portions of B-pictures are displayed while second portions occurring later in the raster order are decoded. The foregoing allows the second portions occurring later in the raster order to overwrite third portions of the picture that have already been displayed. As a result, the frame buffer for providing the frame from a decoder to the display engine need only store the portion that is being displayed and the portion that is being decoded.